

New rail line between Tanur and Guruvayur

* 59. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 748, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th July, 2000, and state:

(a) whether the survey report for the new rail line from Tanur to Guruvayur has been examined by the Railway Ministry and requisite clearances given; and

(b) if so, by when the work is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) The Survey Report for the new line from Tanur to Guruvayur has been examined in the Railway Ministry. The report has been sent to Planning Commission for appraisal. Further action for obtaining the requisite clearances can be taken only after this appraisal is completed.

(b) The work would be commenced after the requisite clearances become available.

Railway safety policy

*60. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with the increasing incidence of rail collisions, derailments of trains on various sections of Indian Railways, Government have formulated any railway safety policy, enunciating work priorities, to phase out the overaged assets like tracks, coaches, wagons, signals, etc. within a time-bound programme; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

[23 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE); (a) and (b) Railway accord highest priority to safety in train operations, which is an ongoing and continuous process. The provision of Safety equipment and progressive renewal of assets depends upon availability of funds and resources.

Safety depends upon the health of assets being maintained. Track, coaches, wagons and No. of stations where Signals have been replaced during last four years are given hereunder:

Year	Track Renewal in Km	Wagons (BG) Overaged and replaced during the year (Four wheeler Units)	Coaches (BG) Overaged and replaced during the year	Signal replacements
1997-1998	2950	5756	679	134
1998-1999	2967	6903	838	150
1999-2000	3006	9508	612	183
2000-2001*	3250	6887"	366"	113

* Proposed.

** Upto October 2000.

Railway Safety Review Committee in Part-I of their report had recommended that Central Government should provide a one time grant of Rs. 15,000 crores to Railways so that arrears in renewal of track, bridges, rolling stock and signal gears are wiped out within a fixed time frame.

Although Indian Railways have not yet received any specific grant on the basis of recommendations of Railway Safety Review Committee, efforts have been made to prevent accidents by progressively implementing Safety measures and to suitably enhance the outlay of Safety related items including assets renewal in the current year budget within the constraint of available resources.